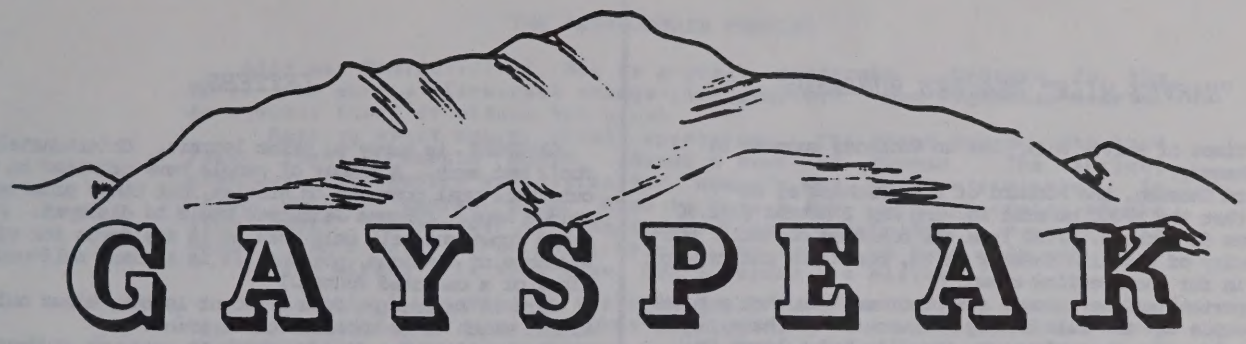

GAYSPEAK

NEWSLETTER OF THE PIKES PEAK GAY COMMUNITY CENTER

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 5 MAY 1985

HIDE & SEEK EXPANDS--
AND EXPANDS AND EXPANDS

Not content with the Hide & Seek and the Annex in Colorado Springs, Joe Brady opened Hide & Seek #2 in Pueblo on March 8, the very day GAYSPEAK came out with a story wondering when it would happen.

Brady said the new place, at 2506 Lake Ave., is doing good business, with the big shows hitting there Fridays, moving up to the Springs on Saturdays. He is getting a lot of business from Southern Colorado, from males (and some females) who come up to see the hunky males in the stripper shows.

Now Denver. Joe has been negotiating for David's on 13th St., but David's is entangled in legal troubles (labor relations). So the action is turning to a couple of other places which he cannot name at the moment. David's may come back into play later.

That's not all. He is looking to turn a 3.2 bar in Pueblo (also not named) into Annex #2. Watch for that.

There are rumors of a possible Hide & Seek in Tucson. That is on the back burner because of the Pueblo activity, but is still on the stove.

"So where do you get the time and energy?"

"It's getting to be a chore," Joe sighed. "But really I like work too much."

Joe announced that Chuck Rothwell will take over as manager in Pueblo on May 22, and "Bob" will take Chuck's place as disk jockey at the Annex in the Springs.

FLOAT FOR PRIDE WEEK PARADE

The Gay Pride Parade in Denver is fast approaching. Sunday, June 23, 11 a.m. Colorado Springs promises to have a strong showing. A lavendar banner with "THE PIKES PEAK REGION" in black letters is under construction. A float is in the planning stage.

If you have float building experience and/or enthusiasm, please call the Community Center, 4714-GAY, and leave a message.

This will be the best parade yet!!

Shellie K.

BLOCK PARTY

Allan Wakefield, coordinator of the PPGCC Helpline, says plans are firming up for the block party, to be held in front of the Center at 1809 DePaul on June 22.

Booths are almost sold out, to various support organizations. Ticket prices, at $1.50, with a 50 cent discount for donations of food for CARE AND SHARE, are attracting many buyers. Booths are $10 each.

This is a new event for the Center, unless you count the smaller fair at the Hide & Seek last year. Wakefield said enthusiasm seems to be high.

"HARVEY MILK" REACHES HUNDREDS

"The Times of Harvey Milk" was an enormous success in every category.

Richard Skorman, the Richard of Poor Richard's, announced that the PPGCC benefit showing May 2 netted $262.50 ($255 from 91 tickets, $7.50 from the donation bucket.) Normal capacity of his film theater is 80, but extra chairs were brought in for the overflow crowd.

As important as the income, said Skorman, was that a total of 350 people saw the film during the week it was here, including a number of repeat viewers. The film had a large impact on a lot of those who saw it. Skorman said he thought it probably helped bring people out of the closet.

Other groups have asked to arrange showings later.

The benefit audience was somber as it came out of the documentary, and as many were wet-eyed as dry.

PPGCC President Joe Brady spoke before the showing, thanking the audience for supporting the Center, and Poor Richard's for its generous donation.

THANKS FOR THE APRIL ISSUE

There wouldn't have been a GAYSPEAK in April at all, if Bob Armintor hadn't stepped in and grabbed hold. Your ordinarily faithful editor was on his back recovering from the third disgusting disk operation on the same disk, when Bob put together the small accumulation of material with new stuff to make up the issue; from start to finish, 5 days! Shellie K. gave Bob a large assist by contributing several articles for the issue from a woman's perspective. (Watch the June issue for more.)

GAYSPEAK's aim, now that its mission is being defined more sharply than before, is to present thought-provoking articles on issues of importance to gays and lesbians. We shall try to challenge, we shall sometimes enter controversy. We promise not to be bland. As always, we shall do our best to give our readers accurate information about local events.

an editorial by
Paul Kutsche

LETTERS

GAYSPEAK is happy to print letters. Unfortunately, we don't get many. A number of people have promised to write out their oral comments on stories, but those promises are seldom kept. (Thomas Jefferson would be dismayed. A free press functions well only when it is the forum for vigorous exchange of opinions, not when it is a bland self-congratulation, or a censored funnel.)

Here is an excerpt from a recent letter, minus only the kudos, which we're embarrassed to print:

"Enclosed please find my check to renew my student membership. I am proud to support your efforts to strengthen our community and its members....

"I wanted you to know that in my family, your election survey did make a difference. Keep up the good work! Do you plan to investigate the School Board elections at all?" (Sorry to say, we let them slip, along with 95% of the electorate.)

And here is one from a reader who lives in Pueblo. It is edited for brevity and to protect the writer's identity:

"I am a patient at the Colorado State Hospital.... The truth is, I'm starving for some gay friendship. Sure, there are gays here, but I'm looking for contact out in society.

"Very soon I'll have privileges to go downtown & it would be nice just to have someone to buy coffee for now and then....

"It wouldn't take much time for a guy (Willie HOT Krantz, from the March GAYSPEAK maybe—HA!) to get involved here. I'm not looking for a lover, just someone who has a little time, someone who can get me back into a 'normal' circle of gays....

Thank (Gary) Dall for his good piece in March about being gay in Pueblo. Believe it or not, our ward is going to Mineral Palace for a picnic the end of the month. I'll keep my eyes open."

If any reader in Pueblo would like to make contact with this lonely Hospital resident, GAYSPEAK will supply his name and address.

GAYSPEAK is published monthly by the
Pikes Peak Gay Community Center
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Center office and library, 1809 DePaul

Staff for this issue

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	Shellie K.
	Bob Steinborn

Publication date is 15th of the month. Deadline for submitting material, 10th of the month. Cal 473-5516 evenings.

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THE ALIX DOBKIN CONCERT

Alix was FANTASTIC!!!! She is a great performer. Dressed for the 80's, she wore a florescent orange-pink jumpsuit. She lightened hearts. An ageless blend of wisdom and youth.

Rapping about womyn, about oppression. The theme tough. The beat fast, light. Rappin' again. About a tour of Europe. The ancient grandeur. The modern activities for Womyn's and Lesbian's rights. In Paris, Geneva, London, Bonn, Rome to name a few. The struggles of the tour itself. Schedules. Personalities. Language barriers. A remarkable saga. Thanks Alix!! For being there. For taking us back with you.

If you missed Alix this time, DON'T repeat the mistake!!

Last month I reported on the Williamson/Fure/Trull/Higby concert. The highlights mentioned were the ONLY highlights of the concert. I was very disappointed. So were the womyn I rode to Boulder with. Thus I went to the Dobkin concert with much trepidation. I also feared that Alix--the "Angry Separatist"--would paint ugly images of hatred and bigotry. I was WRONG. My fears and apprehension were unfounded. The concert was great!

The concert was opened by Evelyn Green from a small town in Colorado. She sang acappella. The song were executed well, but they're not my style. I was fascinated by the amazing things she did with her voice, especially in the African tribal songs. Yet I was a bored observer.

I was still bored through Alix's first few songs. The Bulgarian and Yiddish songs were unusual and a nice change. But for the other songs, I was more entertained watching the ASL (American Sign Language) interpreter. My thoughts drifted. "What will we do after the concert... We are in Denver... Maybe hit some of the night spots...." But then...I don't know exactly when...maybe it was the rapping... Alix grabbed my attention and she held it.

She was electrifying. She created an experience which pierced my dozing awarteness. She spoke of friendship. She sang of the beauty of love between womyn. She amused us with tales of having two lovers at the same time. (The song she wrote for them was a light-hearted appreciation for womyn of all sizes and shapes, especially for "big girls". It was obvious that Alix prefers womyn who aren't petite and wiry like herself.)

She spoke of her independent love for another independent womon. No more of these mutaully dependent relationships for her. She shared how tough it is to change, to grow, to learn to love differently. Alix entreated us to have strength in exploring "how we'd like to be".

Alix invited the audience to participate in the concert. She taught a song in ASL. We sang along on other songs. Many of us joined her in singing the encore, one of her classics: "The Women in Your Life." It is on her first album "Lavendar Jane Loves Womyn". I was especially touched becasue this is the first Lesbian Album I heard, before Meg or Chris or Holly.

Expecting anger and hatred from the concert, instead I was filled with love and warmth. For my sisters at the concert. For sisters everywhere. And even for my brothers. Alix announced (news to me) that she now OCCASIONALLY invites men to her concerts. WHAT?? ALIX?? MEN?? What is this world coming to? A greater understanding among all people for the betterment of ALL PEOPLE.

Shellie

WHY WOMYN-ONLY CONCERTS??

This is addressed to male human beings, who were not invited to the Alix Dobkin concert. I am always excited about going to a WOMYN-ONLY event. However, I do empathize with the mandantory exclusion by sex.

Why do we need or want WOMYN ONLY space and concerts?

We gays need special space away from the straights. Even those who are Gay-sensitive. We need to energize POSITIVE thoughts and feelings about ourselves. We need to understand and share our pain as an oppressed people. Likewise, women need to set aside time and space to validate the unique concerns of being female. Regardless of how much things have changed in the last decades, so much more needs to change. Women remain second class citizens in many ways. Women continue to be oppressed in this male-orienteed patriarchy. We need women-only space. We need this in the mixed straight/Lesbian environment. Futhermore, we Lesbians need Lesbian-only time and space.

Shellie

GAY HEALTH UPDATE

John Potterat, Colorado Spring's authority on gay health in general and AIDS in particular, last week offered GAYSPEAK an update on his December 1984 review of our health.

In December, Potterat emphasized oral-fecal transmission as the "unifying behavior" behind AIDS and allied syndromes, and cautioned against any kind of sexual activity that brings mouths and anuses into contact. Anal intercourse he added to the list of dangers. In May, GAYSPEAK asked him about the widespread warnings against any sexual contact involving body cavities.

Gay Community news endorses a campaign button that says, "On me, not in me." That includes practically all techniques except mutual masturbation. What about it?

"Other body fluids, such as semen and saliva, also carry clinically observable signs of AIDS," replied the Director of VD Control for El Paso County. "But they are very minor modes of transmission. IF they were a large danger, then there would be lots more cases of AIDS among straights, and prostitutes would transmit AIDS wholesale. But they don't." As further evidence, Potterat cited a study in Denmark of 25 heterosexual couples in each of which one individual was a hemophilian and had the antibody to the AIDS virus. The only counterpart to get a clinical sign of AIDS was one wife who was habitually butt-fucked. And she didn't get the disease.

In short, there is a very small risk of getting AIDS by French kissing, or having oral sex with an AIDS victim. Nevertheless, "For the next few months, the best strategy is to have nothing to do with the body fluids of a male sex partner."

"Whoa there, what is so magic about the next few months?" asked GAYSPEAK.

"Research is going on very rapidly, Potterat replied. "From 1981 to 1983, in the first spate of research at the Pasteur Institute in France and at the National Institute of Health in the U.S., enormous strides were made.

"You can smell a Nobel Prize," he summed up. Those researchers are working frantically to find the cure, in order to win the prize, and he predicted that it would turn up at any time.

While we wait, a UPI story in the Rocky Mountain News tells us that 10,000 people have contracted AIDS. Half of them are dead already, and the Center for Disease Control expects a higher rate next year.

CALENDAR

MAY

21 PPGCC Board meeting 7:30, Center. Open to all PPGCC members.
22 Dignity. Board meeting 7 at Leo's home. Call Barb, 593-9606 or Ken, 471-0194. Everyone welcome.
23 Prayer service, Dignity. Room 8, Sacred Heart Parish Center, 21st and Colorado (or Pikes Peak).
30 Dignity. Prayer service, same time and place, led by Sr. Margaret Elizabeth, S.C.

JUNE

1 Court Show for candidates for Emperor and Empress. Annex, 10:30
6 Dignity. Prayer service, Room Sacred Heart Parish, 7, led by Cher P. Coffee following.
8 Court. Show at El Chaparral, Pueblo and Hide & Seek. Parents & Friends. 2 p.m. meeting at Center, 1809 DePaul. Roger Webb may be the speaker (not yet decided).
9 Court meeting, Bob's home, 2124 W. Chucharras, 1 p.m. Everyone welcome.
11 Candidate show, Court. Exit, 10.
12 Court. Awards program (appreciation for those who have helped out this year). Exit, 10.
13 Dignity. Mass, Re v. LeRoy Clementich, 7, Room 8 of Sacred Heart Parish. Dessert follows, potluck.
14 Court. Emperor's and Empress's stepping down show. Hide & Seek, 10:10 and 12:10.
15 Court. Coronation. Voting, 1-5. Hospitality suite, 1-4. Cocktails, 6. Show, 7. All at the Clarion.
16 Court. Victory brunch, Exit, 1 p.m.
PSN. Annual picnic, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Lazy Land area of Palmer Park. Lunch 11:00 to 12:30, $3 for hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, beans, melon, drink. Drawing for "Wild Raffle" with prize a V.C.R. Softball.
20 Dignity. Prayer service, 7, Room 8 of Sacred Heart Parish.
22 PPGCC block Party, in front of the Center, 1809 DePaul.
23 GAY PRIDE PARADE, Denver. Various units and events from Colorado Springs contingents.

LOVING ME, LOVING YOU

Saturday, April 20, PPGCC sponsored a seminar entitled "Loving Me, Loving You," organized by Count Me In. About 45 people attended this excellent event.

Four speakers, all gay-sensitive but none of whom identified him/herself as gay, spoke to an all-gay audience. Nancy Bowers, a teacher of psychology, spoke about "Risking." She praised gay people for taking the risk of being gay and encouraged all of us to be unique, not to be coerced by societal pressures toward conforming.

The remaining three speakers are all local therapists. Bob McCoy's topic was "Self-Esteem" which he interchanged with self-image. He encouraged inner growth and pleasing oneself, as did all the speakers. McCoy recommended that we not try to be perfect, but rather to change things one at a time, do what one wants to do, and expect that if you are doing something significant, you will have opposition. McCoy subscribed to the Ayn Rand philosophy of being responsible only for yourself.

Gerard Perusse spoke on "Understanding Emotions." Getting in touch with your feelings isn't enough, he said. We need to learn what to do with feelings so we can be architects of our own lives. Perusse feels gay men have a lot to offer straight men because they're more in touch with their feelings.

The audience was delighted with the humor of the final speaker, Barby Bunn, another local therapist. Bunn spoke about "Lovestyles" from the book by the same title by Lasswell. Through a questionnaire she helped us figure out our lovestyles: friends, game-players, logical, romantic, possessive, and unselfish. Most people combine the characteristics of a few lovestyles which are not fixed but can change. Understanding lovestyles is a way of understanding oneself and others. For, although people may love differently, they love no less intensely. The degree to which you can empathize with someone else is the key factor in the quality of loving.

In the words of Lasswell, "To understand another person's approach to love, even though you may not share it, to recognize and accept even though you may express love in quite a different way, these are the skills of loving."

There was to be a discussion at the end, but it did not occur. Apparently everyone had too much to think about. It would have been fun to hear comments and evaluations. Hopefully we can have other events of this kind so that we can get to know each other better.

Thanks to the organizers for a very special day.

Alma Cremonesi

MARGARET MEAD AND HER LOVERS

One of America's favorite grandmother-figures was bisexual.

A new book by Mary Catherine Bateson, WITH A DAUGHTER's EYE: A MEMOIR OF MARGARET MEAD AND GREGORY BATESON (N.Y.: Morrow, 1984, $15.95) reports in detail about the sexual lives of both her parents. Bateson, guru of the general-systems movement which ties anthropology to biology and even physics, merely had a number of female lovers.

But Maggie Mead swung both ways.

"I asked my father," says the daughter, "how he had felt about Margaret and Ruth (Benedict, author of PATTERNS OF CULTURE) as lovers.... He spoke of Ruth as...someone for whom he had great respect.... What came through quite clearly was a sense of the incongruity of any kind of jealousy or competition" (pp. 117-18).

Daughter Catherine is deeply troubled, not that her mother had a number of women lovers, but that she felt she had to keep them secret from her own child. In the abstract, Mead was supportive. She "described the exploration of sexual relationships with both men and women as an expression of creativity, of breadth of potential and innovation" and an enriching experience.

But when it came down to her own life and her family's, she was brutal. One night, after Catherine confided in her mother a tentative romance with a woman friend in Israel, the mother "disconcerted me by turning from my confidences about tenderness and exploration to a discussion of what it would have meant for her professional life if I had been involved in scandal" (p. 124). Mead also lied to her daughter about her male lovers.

An ambiguous culture hero. The reviewer can add a bit to the ambiguity: in 1974, for the first time , a number of gay anthropologists (no lesbians were out in the profession then) got up two panels for the annual meeting, held that year in Mexico City, to describe their field research. Mead, then already a past president of the Anthropological Association, conferred a sort of legitimacy on the pioneer panels by appearing as a discussant. But she could not free herself from a belittling attitude, for the only model she offered us of male homosexuality was the British army officer who uses his "bat boy" for sexual release while away from heterosexual society. We in the audience were simultaneously grateful to Mead for coming to the session, and offended at her condescension. She made no reference to women.

Paul Kutsche

PSN PICNIC

After last year's highly successful do, PSN will stage another picnic this year, June 16, 9-4, at the Lazy Land picnic area of Palmer Park. PSN will put on lunch again, tickets $3, menu the standard hamburgs, hot dogs, beans, drinks.

Soft ball competition is planned, PSN against comers.

A raffle will be held, first prize a VCR.

Last year's picnic was great, and PSN plans a repeat of that success.

AGING IN A GAY ENVIRONMENT

Growing old gracefully does not seem to be an attribute of most gays and lesbians. It's more like we go down kicking and screaming.

The following four profiles are meant to dispel some of the myths we have of aging.

Kelly, 58, just lost his lover of 39 years in October. He starts the interview somewhat weeply and says he wishes his lover could be there because he would be so proud to tell their story.

Kelly met his lover in 1942, when he was 16 and Frank was 23. The two stayed friends until they got out of the service around 1945. It was then Frank decided to get Kelly or lose their friendship. For the next 39 years the two were never separated.

Kelly says they were never really involved in gay activities and never really had any trouble with discrimination.

"Back when we met, people didn't see it as strange when two men lived together. I guess it never occurred to them that we were gay," says Kelly.

Kelly says he doesn't think older straights are any better off because often their children leave home and look at their elderly parents as a burden.

Fear of being alone has not really affected Kelly because he says he has many friends to take care of him. He and Frank gave guidance to a number of younger gays who are now in their forties but still are in contact with Kelly and are almost like children.

Early in their relationship, the couple bought a house through a GI plan and have nvested money in real estate and life insurance which has provided a strong financial base for Kelly.

(cont. on p. 8)

CATEGORY
•SIX•
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& Lesbiana
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CENTER SUPPORT GROUPS

Here are the groups which meet regularly at present. For referral or more information, please call the Helpline---471-4GAY.

"Can We Talk?" Mondays at 7pm at the Center. For all ages & genders.
"Count Me In" Thursdays at 7:30pm. For women and men 30 and over.
"Parents & Friends of Gays" Second Saturday of each month. Call 634-0776. Ask for Muriel.
"Speakers Bureau" Call Chuck at 597-6889.
"Young Men's Support Group" Chuck at 597-6889.

OTHER GROUPS/SERVICES

"Dignity"(Catholic support group)--Thursday evenings, 7pm, room 9 Sacred Heart Parish, 21st Street and Pikes Peak.
Metropolitan Community Church--services Sundays at 5pm, 730 N. Tejon
Network--1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, 6-9pm, Henri's Restaurant, 2427 W. Colorado.
Gay Alcoholics Anonymous--Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 8pm, basement of All Souls Unitarian Church, 730 N. Tejon.
STD Clinic(Sexually Transmitted Diseases)--501 N. Foote. Nominal fee. Information confidential. Minors examined without parental consent. Phone: 578-3148.
STD Clinic(Pueblo)--151 Central Main Street. Phone: 545-4650 or 544-8376.
National Gay Task Force CrisisLine to report anti-lesbian or gay violence, 1-7pm Mountain time. 1-800-221-7044.
Maranatha MCC--Sundays, 10:30 a.m., Center office at 1809 DePaul.

MEMBERSHIP

To become a member of PPGCC and receive GAYSPEAK monthly by first class postage, send your check or money order to PPGCC, P.O. Box 574, Colorado Springs CO 80901, together with your name and mailing address.

Rates:

Student (16-21)	$5	Institutional	$35
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AGING (cont. from p. 5)

"We joined our money right from the beginning," says Kelly. "I think that's one of the factors that kept us together. It made the arrangement more like a marriage."

Kelly says he feels that relationships seem not to be as lasting these days and one of the reasons might be that there is so much more temptation now.

He adds that young people really need to plan for their future and get a steady job that will give them a strong financial base and find someone to share it with.

Carolyn, a lesbian in her seventies, was with the same woman for almost fifty years.

Although the two never lived together because of an ailing relative who lived with her lover, Carolyn did live near her friend.

Carolyn did go west for a time to earn a degree and work for a while, but the two always kept in contact.

Carolyn attributes their relationship's longevity to being very close friends and not relying totally on bedroom activities.

There's a lot more freedom in the roles people play within their relationships now than when she first came out.

"When we got together one of the partners had to assume a masculine role and the other a feminine role. Now you have the freedom to create your own roles and don't have to imitate a heterosexual marriage," says Carolyn.

Carolyn, too, has prepared financially for old age by wise investments which have become important since she lives in a care home. Although she didn't have a lot of gay friends throughout most of her life, Carolyn has become very involved with WOW (Women of Wisdom).

She finds it very encouraging that members are interested in relating to older people.

Ken, 60, is a reformed alcoholic and has not been involved with someone on a long-term basis.

He says gayness is not the most important aspect of his life and doesn't see many differences between an older gay and an older straight.

Ken says he doesn't have a lot of friends because he has learned to enjoy his own company and is busy with his business and other activities. He adds that if he did need some assistance he knows there are friends to help.

He recently made the last mortgage payment on his house says as long as he can still get around he will be able to keep his piano tuning business and will be able to provide for himself.

Ken worries about the young kids who all of a sudden decide they're gay and act out what they think gays should be. "I don't see any need to march down the street and proclaim your gayness," Ken says.

Ken says sharing his life with someone who would like to learn piano tuning would allow him to leave a legacy, and would make him very happy. But until then he'll just keep busy and enjoy life.

Mirian, 54, was married and has three children and four grandchildren.

"At 40, I went from being totally straight to being totally homosexual, with no regrets," Mirian says.

After living in New England and being married for 22 years and being with a lover for 12 years, Mirian bought a van and headed out. She ended her trip in Atlanta and decided to stay.

She has a small pension from teaching and some social security from her husband and she recently bought a mobile home.

Her entire family, including her mother and father, knows she is a lesbian. Mirian is still close to her family and is glad they will be there if she needs them.

Mirian says she does envy those with a lover and financial stability, but says she has only been out fourteen years and is still growing and developing.

As far as any fears about getting older, Mirian has few and adds, "It's fun and you don't lose your sex drive."

Aaron Taylor, in Atlanta Gay Center NEWS

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